

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated May 22, 2003. Claims 1-42 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-42 have been rejected. Claims 1, 14, and 27 have been amended to further define the scope and novelty of the present invention, for clarification, as well as to correct typographical and grammatical errors. No new matter has been presented. Claims 40-42 have been canceled. New claims 43-48 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-39 and 43-48 are pending. For the reasons set forth more fully below, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable. Consequently, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Independent claims 1, 14, and 27

Amended independent claims 1, 14, and 27 are provided below for ease of review.

1. (currently amended) A method for accessing information on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) allowing a first system to submit a query to a second system;
- b) processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system-utilizes only information in a storage area not residing on the second system to process the query; and
- c) utilizing the second system to return a result of the processed query to the first system.

14. (currently amended) A network database management system for accessing information on a network, the system comprising:

- means for allowing a first system to submit a query to a second system;
- means for processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system utilizes only information in a storage area not residing on the second system to process the query; and
- means for utilizing the second system to return a result of the processed query to the first system.

27. (currently amended) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for accessing information on a network, the program instructions comprising the steps of:

- a) allowing a first system to submit a query to a second system;
- b) processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system utilizes only information in a storage area not residing on the second system to process the query; and
- c) utilizing the second system to return a result of the processed query to the first system.

The Examiner has stated:

Claims 1-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Raz (U.S. Patent no. 6,292,827).

Regarding claims 1, 14, 27 and 40-42, Raz discloses a method at (Fig.1-Fig.3, Raz) for accessing information on a network (2, Fig.1), the method comprising the steps of:

- a) allowing a first system (12, Fig.3) to submit a query to a second system (18, Fig.3, Raz);
- b) processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system utilizes information not residing on the second system to process the query; and
- c) utilizing the second system to return a result of the processed query to the first system (Fig.1-Fig.3 and summary of Raz).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections. Raz does not teach or suggest "processing the query with the second system, wherein the second system utilizes only information in a storage area not residing on the second system to process the query," as recited in amended independent claims 1, 14, and 27. Instead, Raz teaches that "a portion of the distributed data resides at the client terminals **and** another portion **resides at the servers**" (column 2, lines 11-20). Since such distributed data includes "control or application intelligence and data content" (column 3, lines 31-35), the servers of Raz perform an operation on the information that resides at the servers. This is clearly different from the present invention as recited in claims 1, 14, and 27 where the second system utilizes only information in a storage area that is separate from the second system.

This difference is important because in accordance with the present invention, the second system does not have the burden of maintaining the information (e.g., data and

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metadata). Accordingly, the second system can behave strictly as a database processing engine (specification, page 5, lines 14-16). This is beneficial because the second system can process queries faster, not having the burden of maintaining the information. In addition, the information is maintained in the separate storage area of a separate system, which can have faster access times and higher reliability than the second system (specification, page 7, lines 19-20). Furthermore, if the separate storage area is located at a client system, users of the client system can have control over their data and can enhance their capabilities without interference from other users (specification, page 7, line 19, to page 8, line 10). Accordingly, because Raz teaches that the information is stored at the servers, Raz does not provide the benefits of faster query processing, faster access times, higher reliability, and increased user control as with the present invention.

Therefore, since Raz fails to teach or suggest the above-identified processing step, *in combination with* the other steps recited in amended independent claims 1, 14, and 27, these claims are allowable over Raz.

New dependent claims 43-48

New dependent claims 43-48 have been added to further define the scope and novelty of the present invention. Specifically, claims 43, 45, and 47 recite “wherein the storage area resides on a third system.” Claims 44, 46, and 48 recite “wherein the storage area resides on the first system.” Support for claims 43-48 is found on page 5, lines 12-17. No new matter has been presented. Accordingly, claims 43-48 are allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

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Furthermore, dependent claims 43-48 depend from claims 1, 14, and 27, respectively. Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to claims 1, 14, and 27 apply with equal force to claims 43-48, which are thus allowable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 14, and 27.

Remaining dependent claims

Dependent claims 2-13, 15-26, and 28-39 depend from claims 1, 14 and 27, respectively. Accordingly, the above-articulated arguments related to claims 1, 14 and 27 apply with equal force to claims 2-13, 15-26, and 28-39, which are thus allowable over the cited reference for at least the same reasons as claims 1, 14 and 27.

Conclusion

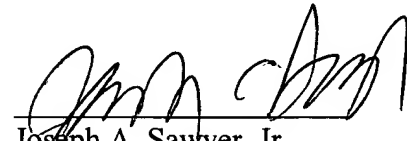
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-39 and 43-48 are patentable over the cited reference. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

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Applicant's attorney believes this application is in condition for allowance.

Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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